DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 182 171 SE 029 956

TITLE Game Birds of Colorado.
INSTITUTION Colorado State Dept. of Education, Denver.; Colorado State Div. of Wildlife, Denver.
PUB DATE 79
NOTE 20p.; For related documents, see SE 029 954-955
LANGUAGE English; Spanish

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Ecology; *Environment; *Environmental Education; Natural Resources; Outdoor Education; *Spanish; Translation; *Wildlife Management; Zoology
IDENTIFIERS *Game Birds; Hunting

ABSTRACT

This booklet is intended to familiarize the reader with game birds typical of Colorado. Discussions in English and Spanish are presented. Discussions cover the management of game birds, individual game bird species, and endangered species of birds related to game birds. (RE)

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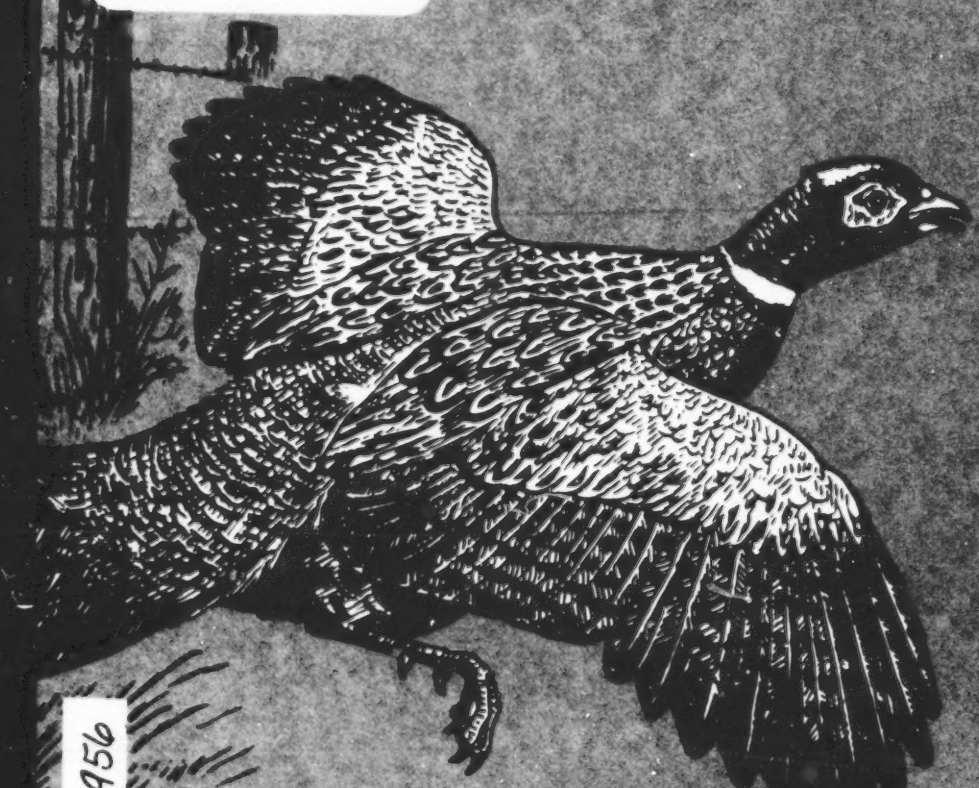
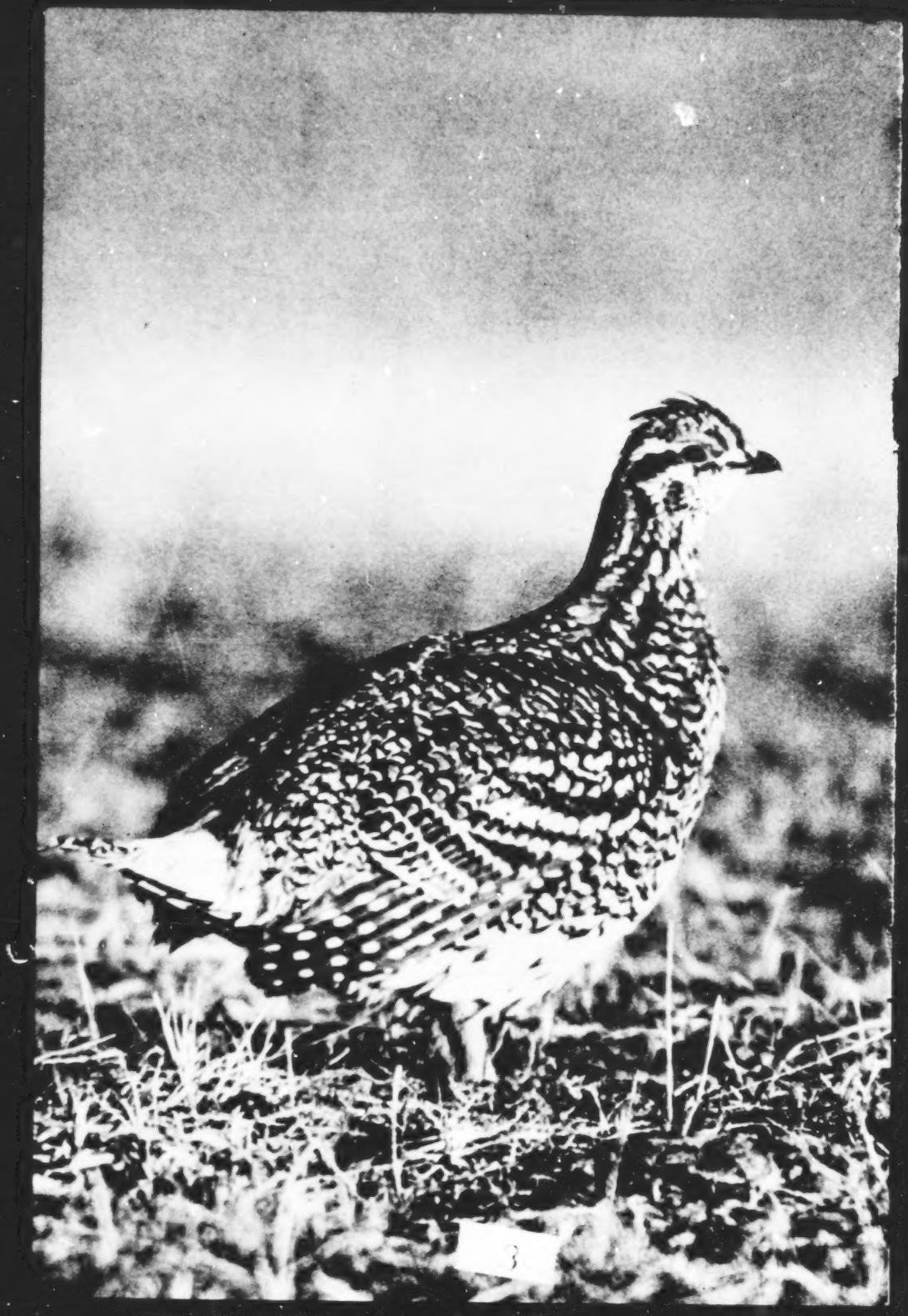
GAME BIRDS

of Colorado



SE 029 956

Published by the
COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
in cooperation with the
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
1979 2
Spanish Translation by George Archuleta



MANAGEMENT

All wildlife needs food to stay alive and healthy, and cover for protection against the weather and natural enemies. Some wildlife creatures thrive under all kinds of food and cover conditions, while others rely entirely on one or a few plants. The Division of Wildlife is trying to increase our game bird population by making more land suitable for them and by releasing birds in areas which will sustain them. The Division also controls the number of game birds which may be taken by hunters.

Man is probably the greatest enemy of our native game birds. Industry and agriculture have destroyed much food and cover, and excessive hunting has put some species near extinction. Excessive hunting is now controlled by laws which allow hunting during restricted periods only (open seasons) and limit the number that may be shot (bag limits).

Some attempts are being made to increase cover, especially for pheasants, by improving habitat on and near Colorado farm lands. Food for pheasants is usually plentiful on farms and does not present a problem. This kind of improvement is costly and the plants require several years' care before their value is seen. Because most of our game bird range is on private land, we must work closely with landowners in these programs.

Wildlife in Colorado is managed by a state agency—the Division of Wildlife. The Division has prepared this booklet to help you become better acquainted with the game birds of Colorado.

EL MANEJO

Todas animales salvajes necesitan pasto para sustentarlos o mantenerlos saludables, también como abrigo contra temporales y enemijos naturales. La División de Animales Salvajes trata de aumentar nuestra población de aves de caza por la ampliación de terrenos y asilos disponibles a las aves. Además sueltan algunas aves en los áreas que pueden sostenerlas. El hombre y su empleo de la tierra han sido los peores enemigos de nuestras nativas aves de caza. La industria y la agricultura han destruido bastante pasto y refugio. El exceso de caza ha ponido algunas especies al punto peligroso de extinción. Pero hoy en día la caza está regulada por la División que hace un esfuerzo en cooperación con propietarios de tierras a fin de mejorar el estado de nuestras aves de caza. En Colorado los animales silvestres caben bajo el manejo de una agencia del estado—la División de Animales Salvajes.

Sharp-tailed grouse/Photo by George Andrews

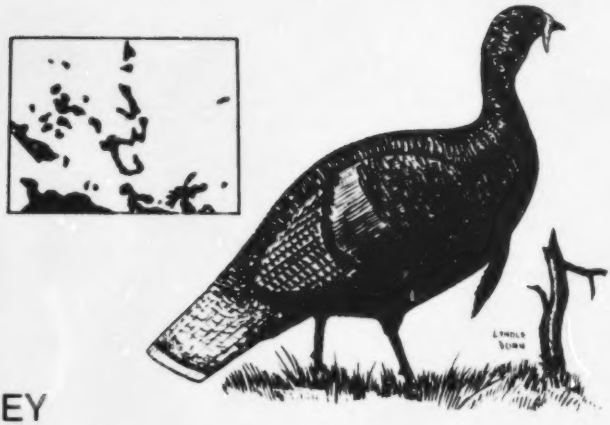
RING-NECKED PHEASANT

Introduced in America from Asian stock, the pheasant is undoubtedly the most important upland game bird in Colorado. The male is a fairly large bird, distinguished by a long tail and white neck ring. Its head is greenish-black, its breast is reddish-brown and its rump is brown with a greenish cast. Most of the body feathers have a metallic sheen. The smaller female usually has a brown back and is lighter below. In early spring the brilliantly colored cock start his mating activity. He establishes a "territory," maintains a harem and will fight to protect his claim.

Pheasants are ground-dwelling birds and are capable of running very fast. They thrive on farm insects and waste grains. Good management is best achieved by providing protective hedges and brush for winter survival and undisturbed grass and weeds for nesting. Their size and strong flight, the delicious flavor of their meat and their ability to live under unfavorable conditions make pheasants excellent game birds.

EL FAISÁN TORCAZ

El faisán fué introducido a América de Ásia; sin duda es lo más importante de las aves de caza de Colorado en tierra alta. Es muy grande el macho y se distingue por una cola larga y un blanco pescuezo torcaz. La hembra por lo regular es más pequeña, con un lomo color pardo y con lo de abajo color más claro. Al principio de la primavera el macho, brillante de colores, empieza su juego de apareamiento. Establece un "territorio," mantiene un harem y trata de luchar contra cualquiera amenaza a sus hembras y espacio. Los faisanes habitan en la tierra, capaces de correr velozmente. Pican insectos de ranchos y granos desechados. El mejor modo de manejarlos es lo de proveerlos setos y matorrales de abrigo para que puedan sobrevivir el invierno tanto como hierbas o zacate para que puedan anidar.



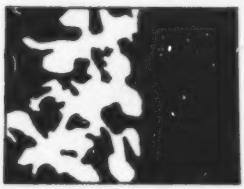
WILD TURKEY

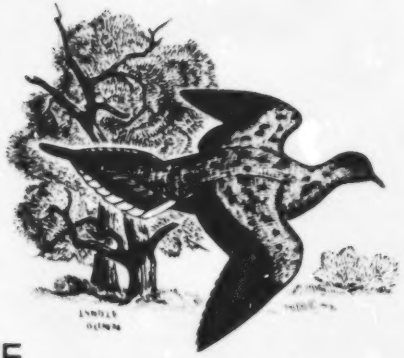
The wild turkey looks a lot like the domestic variety, except that it has a smaller head and looks more streamlined. It also has considerably more white on its tail. The variety of wild turkey found in Colorado is called Merriam's turkey and is the largest of wild turkeys — some adult males weigh more than 20 pounds. The wild turkey likes protection offered by scrub oak brush lands and is fond of acorns, berries, insects and grain. The turkey nests in May and lays 9 to 12 eggs in a ground nest sheltered and lined with leaves and grass.

Wild turkeys once roamed the mountains and foothills over most of the southern half of Colorado. Floods, fire, destruction of food and cover and uncontrolled hunting caused the population to dwindle. A transplanting program begun in 1941 has helped build the population back up.

EL GUAJOLOTE SILVESTRE

El guajolote silvestre se parece mucho a la variedad doméstica, a excepción de que tiene una cabeza más pequeña y parece más adelgazado. También tiene mucha más blancura por su cola. El género del guajolote que se encuentra en Colorado se llama el guajolote de Merriam; es el más grande de los guajolotes silvestres — algunos machos pesan más de veinte libras. Gozan del amparo ofrecido por terrenos de robles achaparrados y gustan bellotas, bayas, granos e insectos. Buscan nidos en el mes de mayo, poniendo nueve a doce huevos en un nido de fondo ocultado y alineado con hojas e hierbas. En otro tiempo vagaban por la mayor parte del sur de Colorado, mas inundaciones, incendios, destrucción de pasto y abrigo y caza sin freno resultó en una población disminuida. Un programa de trasplante que empezó en 1941 ha ayudado a aumentar el número total.





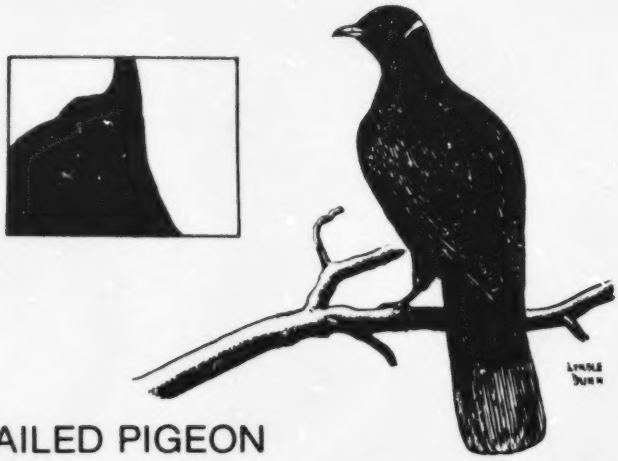
MOURNING DOVE

Of the 17 kinds of wild pigeons and doves that visit this country, only the mourning dove and band-tailed pigeon are found in Colorado. The familiar mourning dove is generally gray in color with purplish bronze on the shoulders, back and tail. Darker slate gray is seen on the rump and outer wing feathers. Rather large and irregular black spots are found on parts of the wings. The tail is long and tapered. The outer tail feathers are marked with black bars and one nearly white bar at the tips. Underparts are paler and sometimes appear a buffy color. The bill is black and the feet are red.

Mourning doves are among the earliest arrivals in spring and nesting activity begins soon after they arrive. Nests fashioned of sticks and weeds may be built on the ground, in a cliff, or in trees or shrubs. Usually two eggs are laid and two or three broods are raised each season. Mourning doves can be easily identified by their mournful call from which their name comes.

LA PALOMA DE LA CAROLINA

De las 17 especies de pichones y palomas que no están domesticadas y que visitan a este país, solo la Paloma de la Carolina y la paloma de banda rabuda se encuentran en Colorado. La Paloma de la Carolina por lo general anda de color gris con bronce purpurinc por los cuartos delanteros, lomo y cola. Por la rabadilla y plumas exteriores de las alas se ve color obscuro pizarra a gris. La cola es larga y adelgazada; las plumas exteriores de la cola se señalan por barras negras, siendo una barra casi blanca en las extremidades. El pico es negro y las patas coloradas. Las Palomas de la Carolina se encuentran entre ellas que llegan al principio de la primavera. Poco después empiezan a hacer sus nidos. Nidos de leña menuda y malas hierbas puden estar construidas en la tierra, sobre un risco, o en árboles o arbustos. Por lo común ponen dos huevos y crian dos o tres nidadas cada temporada.



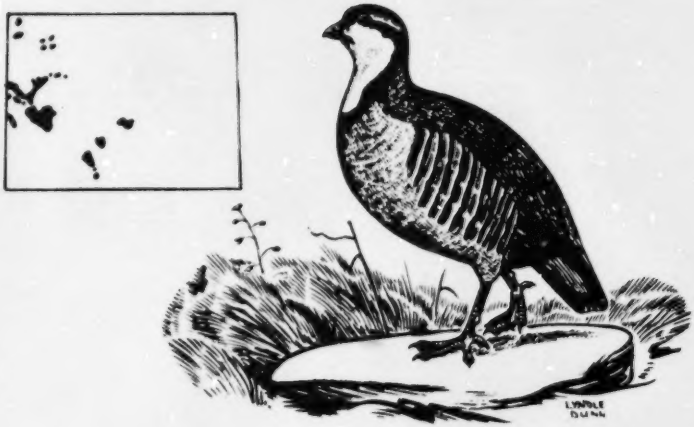
BAND-TAILED PIGEON

Like the mourning dove, the band-tailed pigeon comes to Colorado in the spring and leaves in the fall. Mostly slate blue on the back, the band-tailed pigeon is dusky on the wings and tail with a darker band across the tail. (That's what gives the bird its name.) A white half collar crosses the neck and the bill and feet are mostly yellow. A metallic greenish-bronze sheen covers the back of the neck and shoulders of the adult. Like the mourning dove, the band-tailed pigeon eats mainly seeds, grains and fruits and drinks by dunking its bill in water up to its nostrils—rare behavior in birds.

All pigeons are believed to have only one mate for life, and both sexes take part in building the frail nest of twigs. One or two white eggs are laid, and the young are born naked except for a little bit of down. Young pigeons are first fed pigeon milk, a fluid from a pouch-like crop of the parent.

LA PALOMA DE BANDA RABUDA

Como la Paloma de la Carolina, la paloma de banda rabuda viaja a Colorado por la primavera y sale por el otoño. Por la mayor parte de pizarra azul por el lomo, la paloma de banda rabuda es fusca por las alas y cola con una banda negra al través de la cola (lo que le da su nombre). Un medio cuello blanco le cruza el pescuezo y el pico y las patas principalmente son color amarillo. Sobretodo, como la Paloma de la Carolina, la paloma de banda rabuda se alimenta de semillas, granos y frutas, y bebe por sumergir su pico en el agua hasta sus narices. Se cree que todas las palomas siempre tienen sólo un macho o hembra por toda su vida; ambos ayudan en construir el frágil nido de ramitas. Primariamente alimentan los pichones de leche de paloma, un flúido de un bolsillo de buche de la madre.



CHUKAR PARTRIDGE

The chukar partridge is not native to North America, having originally lived in parts of southern Europe and Asia. These birds are mostly a plain slate gray with a black line through the eye and down the neck, outlining a bib of buffy white. The under parts are lighter and the flanks are cream-colored, barred with black stripes. The bill and legs are red.

Chukars live in barren, rocky, semi-arid regions with water close by and are now found in several western Colorado locations. They prefer remote, unsettled areas in contrast to the civilized regions populated with native birds. Their diet include grass, seeds, weed seeds, insects, green sprouts and flowers.

EL PERDIZ DE CHUKAR

No es indígena a Norteamerica el perdiz de chukar. Originalmente habitaba lugares de Europa y Ásia austral. Tales aves ordinariamente son de color pizarra; tienen una raya negra por el ojo que se dibuja hacia abajo el pescuezo, delineando un pecho de amarillo claro a blanco. Las partes inferiores son más claras y las ijadas, de color crema, se barran de rayas negras. El pico y las patas son de color de sangre. Los chukar viven en regiones infructuosas, peñascosas, semiáridas, pero de agua a mano. Actualmente hay algunos sitios occidentales en Colorado donde se pueden encontrar. Prefiren lugares remotos, sin habitantes, contraste a las regiones civilizadas, pobladas de aves indígenas. Su dieta consiste de hierbas, semillas, insectos, bretones y flores.

The QUAIL FAMILY

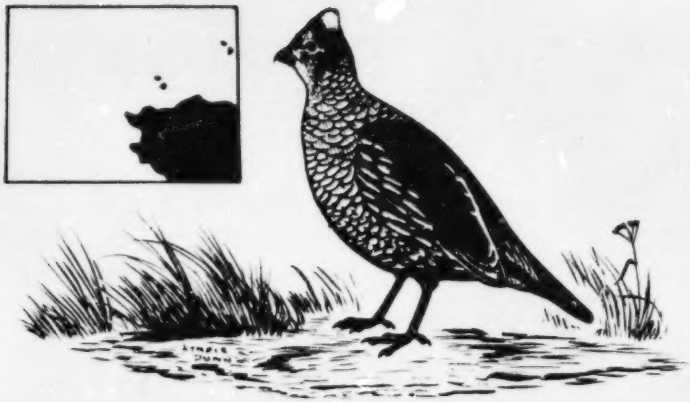
Quails are a family of ground-dwelling birds represented in Colorado by the scaled quail, bobwhite quail and Gambel's quail. These birds seem to be adapted to agriculture and civilization and find ample food and shelter in farming areas, particularly around neglected farms. Most of Colorado's quail like the dry, arid regions, but they do require a little water daily. Lack of water may be one reason for the absence of quail in some parts of the state.

Quails are well camouflaged and their protective coloration, though sometimes bright, often makes them nearly invisible against their natural surroundings. They live together in groups called coveys and escape enemies by scattering in all directions on strong wings and long, sturdy legs. Once scattered, they reassemble by calling each other in piping voices.

Quails ususally roost on the lower branches of trees and shrubs. Nests are usually made on the ground sheltered by clumps of grass or weeds, or under bushes and are sparsely lined with grass or leaves. Six to 15 cream-colored, speckled eggs are laid and hatch after about three weeks incubation. The tiny, down-covered chicks are very active within hours after hatching.

LA FAMILIA DE LA CODORNIZ

Las codornices o aves gallinaceas son una familia de aves que occupan la tierra. En Colorado están representadas por la codorniz escamosa, la codorniz bobwhite y la codorniz de Gambel. Parece que las aves están bien adaptadas a civilización y hallan amplio pasto y abrigo en los áreas agrícolas, especialmente cerca de ranchos caidos en desuso. Los más de las codornices de Colorado hallan agrado en regiones secas, áridas, menos que requieren poca agua cada día. Tienen camuflage ventajoso y su coloración frecuentemente se les hace casi invisible contra su ambiente natural. Moran juntas en grupos que se llaman nidadas. Escapan de sus enemigos por dispersarse por todas direcciones, empleando alas fuertes y patas largas, endurecidas. Se juntan de nuevo por llamar una a otra en voces silbadas. Los nidos por lo general están fabricados en la tierra, cubiertas por trozos de hierbas. Ponen seis a quince huevos manchitos, color de crema. Salen del cascarón después de tres semanas de empolladura.



SCALED QUAIL

The most widely distributed of the quails in Colorado, the scaled quail makes its home in the plains and foothills in the southeastern part of the state, favoring rocky washes and gullies. This quail is mostly bluish-gray, tinted with dull brown. The feathers on top of its head are tipped with pure white and stand up to form a bushy crest. For that reason, it is often called "cotton top." Most of the under parts and the neck have a fish-like scaled appearance. The sides are brownish-gray, barred with white.

Scaled quail depend on their color for protection, and rarely fly unless they are hard pressed. Because of their natural camouflage, they are often heard but not seen. Their call sounds like "pe-cos, pe-cos."

LA CODORNIZ ESCAMOSA

De las codornices de Colorado, la codorniz escamosa está más esparcida por todas partes. Hace su asilo en los llanos y cerros del sudeste del estado. Prefire aluviones y barrancas. Mayormente es color azulado — pardo, teñido de moreno obscuro. Las plumas encima de su cabeza están montadas de pura blancura; se paren para formar un penacho espeso. Por eso, muchas veces se titula "coronilla de algodon." La mayoriá de sus partes inferiores, como su pescuezo, tiene la apariencia de pez escamado. Sus costados son color gris con algo de moreno, rayados en blanco. Depende de su color como protección; es raro que vuela a menos que esté amenezada. A causa de su camuflage natural, frecuentemente se oye pero no se ve. Su grito sonda como "pe-cos, pe-cos."

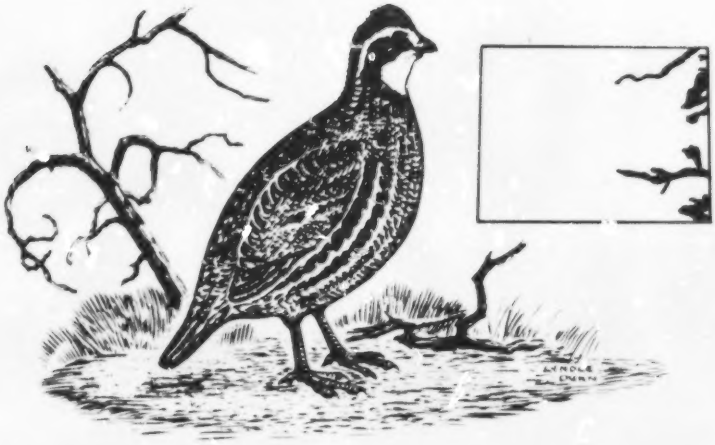
GAMBEL'S QUAIL

The beautiful Gambel's quail is found over a large portion of the southwestern United States. In Colorado, this quail lives near the irrigated land and along the streams in the southwest region. Male and female look pretty much alike except that the male has a white line which outlines both the top of his head and the dark bib on his neck. The general color and the head plume help distinguish the Gambel's quail from other Colorado quails.

Gambel's quail band together in coveys during the winter months. They scatter to feed and return at night to a dense thicket where they huddle together in a feathery mass. Often a bird acts as a sentinel, guarding over a covey that may be feeding or nesting. Gambel's quail are elegant and graceful and seem in constant motion. They make a pleasing sound when feeding and scurrying about. Nests are usually made on the ground in the shelter of clumps of grass on weeds or under bushes.

LA CODORNIZ DE GAMBEL

La hermosa codorniz de Gambel se encuentra por mucha parte del sudoeste de los Estados Unidos. En Colorado, vive cerca de tierra de riego y a lo largo de los arroyos del parte al sudoeste. El macho y la hembra se asemejan mucho a excepción del macho que tiene una línea blanca que dibuja tanto la coronilla de su cabeza como el pechero bruno de su pescuezo. El color ordinario y la pluma de la cabeza le ayudan a distinguirse de las otras codornices de Colorado. Las codornices de Gambel se juntan en polladas durante los meses del invierno. Se parten en muchas direcciones diferentes para comer la hierba del campo y regresan por la noche a un bosquecito espeso donde se agrupan en un conjunto plumado. A menudo una ave hace de guardia de la nidada mientras que sus miembros están pastando o anidando. Las codornices de Gambel son finas y primorosas, teniendo la apariencia de estar en movimiento perpetuo. Hacen sonidos agradables cuando andan de pasto y de prisa. Ponen sus nidos en la tierra amparado por trozos de hierbas o debajo de matas.



BOBWHITE QUAIL

The bobwhite quail is widely distributed over the eastern half of the United States. It has thrived and expanded with agriculture through the midwest. Its name comes from its heartening, two-syllable call. The bobwhite quail sports a mottled chestnut and gray plummage, with lighter shades on its breast and belly. It has the familiar white line over the eye and down the neck, and a white bib. Bobwhite quail prefer fairly open cultivated or pasture land with patches of brush for shelter and favor brushy riparian (river bottom) areas.

Bobwhite quail are found in small coveys, and the males assist in the feeding and protection of the young. The covey sleeps in a group with heads out, ready to scatter if frightened. Floods in eastern Colorado river bottoms and heavy snows can take a heavy toll of bobwhites and their nests.

LA CODORNIZ BOBWHITE

La codorniz bobwhite se extiende una gran distancia por rumbo del leste de los Estados Unidos. Con la agricultura ha florecido por el oeste-central. Deriva su nombre de su grito animado de dos silabas. Luce de plumazón jaspeado, castaño y pardo. Sobre su pecho o seno trae sombras más claras. Además de un pechero blanco, tiene la familiar linea blanca, sobre su ojo y hacia abajo el pescuezo. Prefire terrenos abiertos, labrados o apacentaderos con pedazos de matorral por abrigo. Favorece lugares matosos, ribereños, lechos del río donde hay nidadas pequeñas. Los machos ayudan a pastar y amparar la cría. La nidada duerme en un grupo con su cabeza afuera, pronto para dispersarse. Tanto las inundaciones en el este de los lechos de Colorado como las nevadas pueden tomar como víctimas las codornices bobwhite y sus nidos.

The GROUSE FAMILY

Four different kinds of grouse are found in some numbers in Colorado: the white-tailed ptarmigan, sage grouse, mountain sharp-tailed grouse and blue grouse. The grouse family is characterized by feathers on the legs and on the base of the bill. The most common colors in their plummage are brown, red and gray. As with most birds, the males are more brightly colored and show seasonal variations in color.

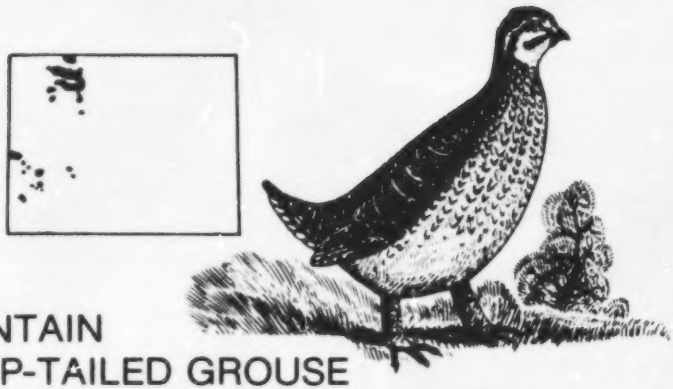
Grouse spend most of their time on the ground where they feed and make their crude, roughly fashioned nests where they may lay from 8 to 15 eggs. Grouse live on a variety of seeds, leaves, berries and insects. They depend upon their protective colors for hiding and often crouch unnoticed until nearly stepped on. They take to flight with a startling flurry.

Like many other birds, male grouse strut and dance during the early spring mating season to announce their presence to female grouse and to rival males. Often they engage in seemingly savage fights in which little or no damage is done.

These fine game birds were once more common in Colorado, but their numbers have been reduced by the encroachment of civilization. Under natural conditions, however, grouse populations vary from year to year.

LA FAMILIA DE ORTEGAS

En Colorado se encuentra cuatro especies de ortegas en ciertos números: el lagópedo de cola blanca, la ortega ortemisia, la ortega montés de cola puntiaguda y la ortega azul. Se señalan por las plumas sobre sus patas y la base de su bico. Por lo regular el plumaje es castaño, rojo o pardo. Pasan la mayor parte de su tiempo en la tierra donde pastan, construindo nidos mal elaborados o acabados. Se alimentan por una variedad de semillas, hojas, bayas e insectos. Dependen de su coloración protectora para cubrirse. Como muchas otras aves, el macho se pavonea y brinca al principio de la primavera durante la temporada de aparearse. Lo hace para anunciar su presencia a la hembra y para rivalizarse a los otros machos. En otro tiempo estas aves primorosas eran más comunes en Colorado, pero sus números se han disminuidos con la intrusión de civilización. Sin embargo, las poblaciones de ortegas varian bajo condiciones naturales.



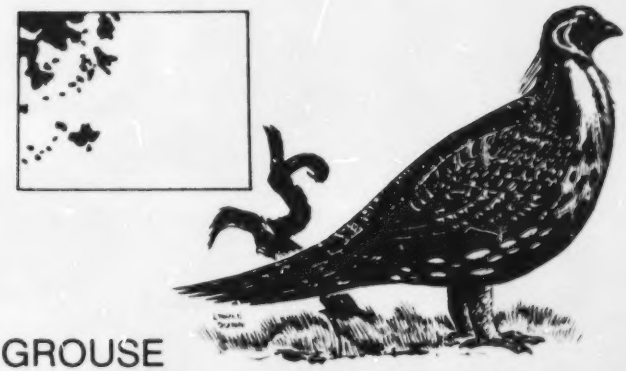
MOUNTAIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

There are two kinds of sharp-tailed grouse found in Colorado. The mountain sharp-tailed grouse is considered a game bird, while the prairie sharp-tailed grouse is one of the state's endangered species (see last two pages of this pamphlet). A pale brownish-colored bird about half the size of the sage grouse, the sharp-tailed grouse gets its name from its short, pointed tail.

In the spring the males display on dancing grounds much like the sage grouse. The males gather on their booming grounds in the early morning and all stand around quietly until one suddenly begins the dance. Spreading his wings and lowering his head, the sharp-tail races around stamping his feet so fast and hard that he produces a drumming sound. The others join in, each one trying to make as much noise as possible to impress the females. The hens nest on the ground and lay an average clutch of 7-13 eggs. The sharp-tailed grouse is usually associated with grasslands and mountain brush near berry or oak thickets and feeds mostly on grass seeds, buds, flowers and berries.

LA ORTEGA MONTÉS DE COLA PUNTIAGUDA

Colorado goza de dos clases de ortegas de cola puntiaguda. La ortega montés es estimada como ave de caza, mientras que la ortega llanura es una de las especies amenizadas (vea las últimas dos páginas de este folleto). Una ave pálida color moreno, casi de medio tamaño de la ortega artemisia, la ortega de cola puntiaguda obtiene su apellido de su corta cola puntiaguda. Durante la primavera los machos se muestran en los terrenos retumbantes. Desempeñan un papel muy semejante a lo de la ortega artemisia. Las hembras hacen sus nidos en la tierra, poniendo una nidada por término medio de siete a trece huevos. La ortega de cola puntiaguda está asociada por lo común con terrenos cubiertos de hierba y montes próximos a bosquecitos de bayas o robles. Pastan en su mayor parte de semillas de hierba, yemas, flores y bayas.



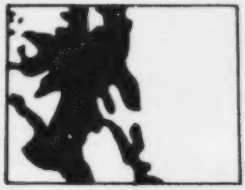
SAGE GROUSE

The sage grouse is the second largest of American game birds (after the turkey) with males averaging better than five pounds. Females are smaller, averaging three pounds. In Colorado, the sage grouse lives in the drier sagebrush plains of northcentral and western Colorado. It is gray-brown, mottled with black and white above. The head is darker, and most of the lower parts are yellow-white. A yellow stripe on each side of the neck identifies the air sacs of the male. This grouse is confined to sagebrush areas since its winter food is almost entirely sagebrush, leaves and shoots. Destruction of sagebrush lands has seriously reduced its numbers in some areas.

Mating season begins in spring when the males gather in strutting grounds and parade around with their enormous, irregular air sacs inflated so that the entire head and neck look like one big balloon. The tails are erect and spread out like a strutting turkey. Expelling the air from the air sacs produces chucking and rumbling sounds.

LA ORTEGA ARTEMISIA

La ortega artemisia es la segunda más grande ave de caza (después del guajolote) de América. El macho por lo ordinario pesa más de cinco libras. Puesto que su pasto de invierno consiste casi enteramente de artemisia, se confina a los llanos de artemisia más secos del norte-central y del oeste de Colorado. Por todo es color pardo-gris; la cabeza es más obscura y lo más de la parte inferior es de amarillo-blanco. Las celdas para aire del macho se identifican por una raya amarilla sobre cada lado del pescuezo. Durante la temporada de aparearse en la primavera, las celdas para aire del macho se ponen enorme cuando están hinchadas. El macho se pavonea, haciendo sonidos sordos, continuos y cloqueos. La destrucción de tierras artemisias ha reducido severamente el número de estas ortegas en Colorado.



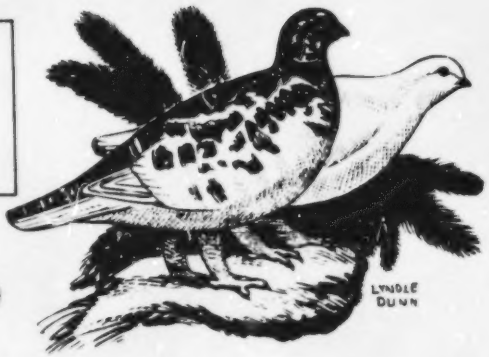
BLUE GROUSE

A medium-sized bird (males weigh up to three pounds and females average two pounds), the blue grouse is dark gray or bluish in color with a light band along the tip of the tail. The underparts are lighter gray marked with white and a distinct white line runs back of the eye. It is also known as the pine grouse or dusky grouse. Its diet includes worms, insects, berries, plant leaves and fir needles.

Blue grouse spend the winter months in the high coniferous forests, feeding solely on needles and using snow on the branches for water. During the spring these birds move down onto the foothills. The males establish areas and perform their strutting acts along the edges of aspen, oak and even sagebrush thickets. The hens nest on the ground, frequently under sage or near logs, and the clutch size varies from 5 to 10 eggs.

LA ORTEGA AZUL

Una ave de tamaño mediano (los machos pesan hasta tres libras y las hembras dos libras por término medio), es de color gris la ortega azul, obscuro o azulado con una banda clara a lo largo del cabo de la cola. Sus partes inferiores se pintan de gris también, pero son más claras; se muestran color blanco con una distinta línea blanca que se extiende detrás del ojo. También se conoce como la ortega de pino u ortega fusca. Contiene su dieta gusanos, insectos, bayas, hojas de plantas o hojas aciculares de pino. Pasa la invernada en los altos bosques coniferos, pastando solamente de hojas aciculares y usando nieve de los ramos por agua. Se descende durante la primavera; se muda a los cerros. Los machos fundan sus áreas y hacen su contoneo a lo largo de los bordes de álamos temblones, robles y hasta bosquecitos de artemisia. Las hembras anidan en la tierra, frecuentemente debajo de artemisia o cerca de troncos. La cantidad de la nidada puede variar de cinco a diez huevos.



WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN

The beautiful white-tailed ptarmigan (tar-me-gan) is a small grouse which lives high in the mountains above the timberline much of the year. It is one of the few birds that wears two different coats, one in the summer and one in the winter. In March the plumage begins to change from all white to a mottled combination of white, brown and black. In the fall it loses the black and brown feathers and its new coat is pure white to blend in with the snow. The legs and feet are feathered and the bill is black.

Breeding activities occur just above treeline near short willow thickets in the spring. Hens nest on the ground in protected sites and lay from four to eight eggs. In late summer adults and chicks move up to seek green vegetation near ridges, snowfields and small seeps near rockfields. Ptarmigan move to the protected areas like stream courses at and below timberline and feed on buds and twig tips of willows during the winter.

EL LAGÓPEDO DE COLA BLANCA

El hermoso lagópedo de cola blanca, una pequeña ortega, habita la sierra alta, por mucho del año sobre el límite de la vegetacion arbórea. Es una de las poucas aves que trae dos plumas diferentes, una de verano, otra de invierno. En el mes de marzo el plumage empieza a cambiar de todo blanco a una mezcla jaspeada de blanco, pardo y negro. Durante el otoño pierde sus plumas negras y pardas; las nuevas son puras blancas para mezclarse con la nieve. Tiene patas aplumadas y un pico negro. El acto de empollar occure un poco más arriba del límite arbóreo, cerca de cortos bosquecitos sauces. Las hembras buscan nidos en la tierra sobre sitios abrigados. Ponen de quatro a ocho huevos. Al fin del verano los adultos ascenden con sus pollos para buscar vegetación floreciente inmediato a colinas, campos de nieve y pequeñas coladuras junto a campos roqueños. Los lagópedos se mudan a áreas amparados como corrientes de y debajo del límite de la vegetación arbórea. Pastan de pimpollos y ramitas de sauces durante el invierno.

Threatened and Endangered Birds

Man's use of the land was mentioned several times in this pamphlet as the main reason for the decline in game bird populations. For one group of Colorado birds, the decline is more of a plunge. Three kinds of birds, either once considered game birds or closely related to a species of game bird, are now on the state's endangered and threatened species lists, not because of hunting, but because they have fewer places to live.

Greater Prairie Chicken

The greater prairie chicken is about the size of a domestic chicken, but is mostly brown with tan horizontal bars and a short, rounded tail. Males have bright orange air sacs on the sides of their necks which inflate during courtship displays each spring. These birds used to be abundant throughout the grasslands of the midwest and in Colorado. They nested in several northeastern counties. Now, the population in the state is less than 1,000 birds in northern Yuma County and the greater prairie chicken is classified as an endangered species. Loss of native prairie through overgrazing and the conversion of grasslands to croplands is mostly responsible for this bird's decline.

Lesser Prairie Chicken

This species looks almost exactly like the greater prairie chicken except that the air sacs on its neck are more reddish than orange. These birds prefer to nest in relatively sandy grassland areas with a lot of tall grasses. As with the other prairie grouse species, the problem has been a loss of native prairie as a result of agriculture and overgrazing. About 300 birds remain in Colorado. Fortunately, they are on federal land—the Comanche National Grassland. The lesser prairie chicken is considered a threatened species in Colorado.

Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse

The prairie sharp-tailed grouse is a bird of the eastern grasslands of Colorado. It closely resembles the prairie chickens except that sharp-tails have a pointed tail and the air sacs on the neck of the male are a purplish color. In Colorado, the sharp-tail nested over much of the northern two-thirds of the eastern prairie, but the present population consists of only about 200 birds in Douglas County. That population is now severely threatened by proposed land developments in the area between Colorado Springs and Denver. If the small remaining population of this endangered bird is to be preserved, the existing grassland-shrub habitat must be kept free of further development. Additionally, key shrub areas need to be fenced to prevent overgrazing by livestock.

Las Aves Amenazadas y Perjudicadas

El uso de la tierra por el animal racional fué mencionado antes en este folleto como una causa de la declinación de varias poblaciones de aves de caza. Para un grupo de aves de Colorado, la declinación representa una zambullida. Tres aves, que en otro tiempo eran aves de caza o cuasi del mismo género, ahora se designan por el estado como aves amenazadas o perjudicadas. Esto no resulta de la caza sino de que les falta cada vez más espacio en que pueden sobrevivir.

Greater Prairie Chicken

La Chocha Mayor

Casi del tamaño de la gallina doméstica, por la mayor parte la chocha mayor anda de color pardo con rayas horizontales color canela, su cola corta, redonda. Traen los machos brillantes celdas para aire naranjados sobre los lados del pescuezo; las celdas se hinchan durante la galantería de la primavera. En otro tiempo había múchas por parte de Colorado; en todo caso, en el tiempo presente hay menos de mil aves en el norte del condado de Yuma. Se clasifica como una especie perjudicada.

La Chocha Menor

Se parece esta especie casi lo mismo como la chocha mayor, si no fuera porque las celdas del aire de su pescuezo son más bermejizas que naranjadas. Como la chocha mayor, ha sido el problema del daño a la llanura. Esto resultó de la agricultura y el exceso de pastorear ganado. Sólo cerca de trescientos aves permanecen en Colorado en las Tierras de Hierba de Comanche Nacional. Se halla la ave en Colorado como un especie amenazada.

La Ortega Llanura de Cola Puntiaguda

Una ave de las tierras de hierba del leste de Colorado, la ortega llanura de cola puntiaguda se parece a la chocha excepto que tiene una cola puntiaguda y las celdas del aire de los machos son de color morado. La población actual sólo es 200 aves en el condado de Douglas; esa población está amenazada por la propuesta del desarollo de bienes raíces entre Colorado Springs y Denver.